



# CHAMBERLINK



## RPS Chief Bray speaks to policing issues and strategies

Evan Bray, chief of the Regina Police Service, took part Tuesday in the Chamber's Luncheon Series and provided an interesting look at policing issues and strategies in the Queen City.

The presentation, entitled "Enhanced Approaches To Community Safety," touched on a number of subjects with Chief Bray providing information and insight into the topics.

Here's a quick look at a few of the topics Chief Bray discussed during his 40-minute presentation:

### DRUGS

"The biggest problem in our community is drugs, without a doubt," said Chief Bray.

He provided drug seizures statistics that were almost too shocking to comprehend. Methamphetamine seizures in 2014 totalled 395 grams. That figure rose to 19,229 grams in 2019 and, despite the impact of the pandemic over the past two years, the total amount seized in 2021 was 15,347 grams.



Like in many cities across Canada, fentanyl has become a major issue in Regina. In 2014, there were no fentanyl seizures in Regina. In 2018, 529 grams were seized with that number increasing to 7,458 grams in 2021. Given that miniscule amounts of fentanyl can be fatal, 7,458 grams is a significant number.

In 2021, there were 1,808 overdoses in Regina, 161 of which were fatal.

## **CRIMINAL VERSUS SOCIAL JUSTICE**

"Four-fifths of the calls that police go to in the City of Regina are not criminal in nature, four out of every five calls we go to are more to do with social challenges, mental health, addictions, social challenges of some sort," said Chief Bray.

The RPS is developing partnerships and relationships in the community to help in this area. Chief Bray explained many times when officers get a call, there is an underlying issue that needs to be found and taken into account. These are cases that can't be solved with handcuffs or a detention centre.

## **ANALYTICS**

By collecting and interpreting data, analysts have become an important part of policing.

"Now when the police officer gets a file, there's been some analytics work done that helps direct them in the right direction. It doesn't solve the case but if you've got to go up six steps on a ladder to complete an investigation, you're starting from step two or step three, as opposed to step one," said Chief Bray.

"The use of analysts is becoming more and more prevalent in policing and it's been influential in the number of homicides. In the last four or five years we've been able to solve every single homicide that we've investigated."

## **AIR SUPPORT UNIT**

The RPS is in the process of adding a plane to its resources. A plane was selected instead of a helicopter, which has a much higher purchase price and operating costs while having a shorter ability to stay airborne.

While some have felt the plane is unnecessary, Bray spoke of the many benefits of having an aerial unit. With a long-range camera that can see both day and night, along with a detailed mapping system, the unit has the ability to zoom into targets up to 10 kilometres away. It will allow for dangerous pursuit scenarios to be successfully dealt without any collisions, chases or use of force.

The aerial unit will also be used assisting in searches for missing children or compromised adults who are missing. Bray mentioned that five missing persons are reported daily to the RPS.

## **FIREARMS**

"In 2021, we had 181 violent offenses," said Chief Bray. "Violent offenses are when someone is victimized, basically by someone using a firearm or some force was used or threatened with a firearm . . . Regina has one violent firearm offense every two days and more than three firearms offenses on a daily basis in our city."

Many Regina residents have expressed concern about handguns in the city but Bray said handguns are not the issue. Of the crimes committed with a firearm, only two per cent are with a handgun. The other 98 per cent are long-barrelled guns, many of which have been adapted to be used for criminal behaviour.

It's National Police Week and Chief Bray's presentation fits nicely into its theme of "Connected To Our Communities." Police officers and first responders are often the gateway to many community supports which are vital to a connected and collaborative effort for public safety.

## UPCOMING REGINA CHAMBER EVENTS

### THURSDAY, MAY 26

#### 2022 Business After Hours

A great opportunity to network with other businesses, showcase your brand, connect with new clients, and grow your own business

The Williston Harbour Landing  
5 p.m. -- 7 p.m.



### MONDAY, JUNE 20

#### Networking On The Green

The Regina & District Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

At The Wascana Country Club  
1 p.m. Shotgun Start



### THURSDAY, JUNE 23

#### 2022 Luncheon Series

#### "UPDATE FROM THE AIRPORT"

James Bogusz, President & CEO

Regina Airport Authority

Ramada Plaza  
12 Noon -- 1 p.m.



For more information or to register for any of these outstanding Chamber events click [HERE](#)

*"We acknowledge, with respect and truth, that we work and support the business community in Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional lands of the nêhiyawak (Cree), Anihşināpēk (Saulteaux), Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation."*

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The advertisement features a blue background with white text. At the top, there is a white Wi-Fi signal icon. Below it, the text '5G IS HERE' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath that, 'Invested in SK' is written in a slightly smaller, bold, white font. In the bottom right corner, the SaskTel logo is displayed, consisting of the word 'SaskTel' in white and a stylized signal icon to its right. Below the logo, the text 'Business Solutions' is written in a smaller white font.

### Saskatchewan first in manufacturing sales & wholesale trade growth

For the second month in a row, Saskatchewan is leading the nation in year-over-year growth in the two key indicators of manufacturing sales and wholesale trade.

In March 2022, the value of wholesale trade in Saskatchewan increased by 28.9 per cent (seasonally adjusted) compared to March 2021, which was first in terms of percentage

change among the provinces. The increases in year-over-year wholesale trade were led by the farm products, food and beverage, and miscellaneous merchant wholesalers categories.

Saskatchewan's manufacturing sales increased by 44.6 per cent (seasonally adjusted) in March 2022 compared to March 2021, which was also first in terms of percentage change among the provinces. The manufacturing sales increase (year-over-year) was led by increases in the chemical, food, and wood products manufacturing subsectors. The total value of wholesale trade in Saskatchewan in March 2022 was approximately \$3.2 billion. The total value of Saskatchewan's manufacturing sales in March 2022 was more than \$2.2 billion.

Urban housing start numbers for April 2022 were also released recently. Compared to April 2021, urban housing starts in Saskatchewan increased by 43.6 per cent, which was third in terms of percentage change among the provinces. In the first four months of 2022, they increased by 28.4 per cent compared to the same period in 2021.

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